

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-33. (Canceled.)

34. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region; and

primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

35. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 34, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

36. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 34, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

37. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 34, wherein the target nucleic acid is a DNA molecule.

38. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 34, wherein the target nucleic acid is an RNA molecule.

39. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 34, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 10 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

40. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 34, further comprising a thermostable DNA polymerase.

41. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 36, further comprising a probe that binds to the probe binding site.

42. (Previously presented) A kit for the amplification of a target nucleic acid comprising:

an instruction manual;

a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region; and

primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

43. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 42, wherein the target nucleic acid is a DNA molecule.

44. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 42, wherein the target nucleic acid is an RNA molecule.

45. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 42, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 10 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

46. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 42, further comprising a thermostable DNA polymerase.

47. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 42, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

48. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 42, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

49. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 48, further comprising a probe that binds to the probe binding site of the target nucleic acid.

50. (New) A composition comprising  
a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid; and  
primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid; and

a control probe and a target probe, wherein the control probe detects amplified control nucleic acid and the target probe detects amplified target nucleic acid, wherein at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides of the control probe is more than 80% parallel complementary to:

at least 8 nucleotides of the target probe or  
at least 8 nucleotides complementary to the target probe.

51. (New) The composition of Claim 50, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

52. (New) The composition of Claim 50, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

53. (New) The composition of claim 50, wherein the target nucleic acid is a DNA molecule.

54. (New) The composition of claim 50, wherein the target nucleic acid is an RNA molecule.

55. (New) The composition of claim 50, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 10 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

56. (New) The composition of claim 50, further comprising a thermostable DNA polymerase.

57. (New) A kit for the amplification of a target nucleic acid comprising:  
an instruction manual;  
a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid; and  
primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid; and

a control probe and a target probe, wherein the control probe detects amplified control nucleic acid and the target probe detects amplified target nucleic acid, wherein at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides of the control probe is more than 80% parallel complementary to:

at least 8 nucleotides of the target probe or  
at least 8 nucleotides complementary to the target probe.

58. (New) The kit of claim 57, wherein the target nucleic acid is a DNA molecule.

59. (New) The kit of claim 57, wherein the target nucleic acid is an RNA molecule.

60. (New) The kit of claim 57, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 10 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

61. (New) The kit of claim 57, further comprising a thermostable DNA polymerase.

62. (New) The kit of claim 57, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

63. (New) The kit of claim 57, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.